

**APPROVED-7/15/2010**

## **CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**A special meeting – public hearing of the Cumberland School Committee was held on Wednesday, June 23, 2010 at the Cumberland High School Auditorium, 2600 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island at 6:00 p.m.**

### **Agenda Item #1: Chairman Convenes Meeting**

**The meeting was called to order by Chairman Costa at 6:06 p.m.**

**Members Present: Lisa Beaulieu, Donald Costa, Brian Kelly, Jeff Mutter, Ryan Pearson, Dan Pedro(arrived at 6:23 p.m.). Earl Wood was not present at this meeting.**

**Staff Present: Donna A. Morelle, Ed.D., Superintendent, Joseph A. Rotella, Esq., Director of Administration.**

### **Agenda Item #2: Pledge of allegiance.**

### **Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda.**

**Motion to approve the agenda was made by Lisa Beaulieu, 2nd by Mr. Mutter,  
approve 5-0.**

**Agenda Item #4: Public Hearing-First reading of the following policies:**

**1) Transportation Policy – Mr. Rotella read the first reading of this policy. This policy reviews the amount of walking deemed safe for each grade. These walking distances are deemed safe by the bus company, transportation coordinator and the Cumberland Police Department. Mr. Costa opened the public hearing at 6:12 p.m. and closed it at 6:13 p.m. This policy was reviewed and approved by the CSC Rules and Regulations Sub-Committee on April 12, 2010.**

**2) Acceptable Use Policy – Mr. Rotella read the first reading of this policy. This policy reviews the user responsibilities for computer systems, rights and responsibilities, acceptable use of the technology, prohibited uses of the technology, noncompliance, privacy, physical security, student use. Mr. Mutter asked if there was a listing with all of the inventory on it and Mr. Pearson advised that last year a vendor was hired to do an inventory of all equipment and there is a master list. Dr. Morelle added that she could have Mr. Chandler advise the committee as to how he adds new inventory to this master list. Mr. Costa opened the public hearing at 6:35 p.m. and closed it at 6:36 p.m. The committee did make three minor changes to the policy – they did not amend the policy – these were punctuation and syntax corrections. There was no previous policy regarding the internet. Mrs. Beaulieu also added that the student user responsibility for computer systems electronic information and network security agreement is still in the sub-committee for development as well as the employees user responsibilities for**

computer systems electronic information and network service agreement – but it is their intent to bring this forward as a whole package once this policy is approved by the committee. This policy was reviewed and approved by the CSC Rules and Regulations Sub-Committee on January 28, 2010.

3) Logon Usage Policy – Mr. Pearson read this policy. The policy basically states that all computer users will log into the network using their personal id assigned to them along with their confidential password. The misuse of any computer software, etc., is subject to immediate disciplinary action. Unauthorized access is strictly prohibited. This policy was approved by the School Committee Rules and Regs Sub-Committee on January 28, 2010. Mr. Costa opened the public hearing at 6:44 p.m. and closed it at 6:45 p.m. Dr. Morelle explained to members of the School Committee that until now there have been no policies regarding the internet/computer usage – she noted that there is an Acceptable Use Policy in our handbooks but there is no evidence that it exists as a School Committee Policy. This policy is not replacing any policies because there were none before it.

4) Rhode Island Educator Code of Professional Responsibility – this code has come through the SC Rules and Regs Sub-Committee and has been reviewed. Mr. Rotella pointed out to the members that this code was adopted by the Board of Regents and the Department of Education and it is expected to be adopted by every school board in the state. He also noted that this code is within state law. Mr. Rotella suggested that, with an abundance of caution, the School Committee should adopt this code. Dr. Morelle suggested that the committee act

on this in an affirmative manner-she believes there are clear messages in the code and as soon as it is adopted she would then communicate it to the staff. Mr. Kelly suggested that, because this is not a policy, that this gets on the next SC agenda so that the committee can vote on adopting this code. Mr. Costa asked for public comment and there was only one question. The one question was regarding teachers/certification, licensure, etc., and if this policy or code was adopted how would it be enforced. Mr. Rotella answered the question and basically said that the Department of Education controls licensure, certification, etc., and that the School Committee would use this as a guideline if there is a violation. The code would be adopted by the committee and enforced by the committee. Mr. Kelly went on to say that even if the code did not get adopted, that the Department of Education already has the authority over certifications/licensures etc. Mr. Costa asked Mr. Rotella to put this code on the next School Committee agenda for a vote and Mr. Rotella agreed.

5) Managing Mental Health Emergencies and Serious Problem Behavior Policy – this is a new policy – no previous policy. It was reviewed and approved by the SC Rules and Regulation on November 30, 2009. Mrs. Beaulieu noted that the first page is the actual policy and the pages thereafter are guidelines. She said the committee wanted to make sure that any individuals involved in these emergencies would have a process to follow that was easily accessible to them. Mr. Pearson read this policy. Mr. Costa opened the public hearing at 7:13 p.m.

One comment from Mrs. Burke was made regarding assault and how this was defined – serious or possibly an incident in an elementary classroom – this had happened in the past and there was no notification to parents of the incident, just first graders telling their parents that something happened in class and they had to go to the library. This policy addresses major issues, but something on a smaller scale like this incident needs to be addressed as well. Mr. Costa closed the public hearing at 7:16 p.m. Mr. Costa agreed with Mrs. Burke and asked Dr. Colwell to respond to the comment. Dr. Colwell said that right now these types of incidents come under the Physical Restraint Regulations, a separate policy already in place. But she also noted that this policy is currently being reviewed by her office so that it can be updated. Mrs. Burke and the committee were satisfied with her response. Mrs. Beaulieu thought it would be a good idea to get a definition for assault and Mr. Rotella said he would get a copy of it and give it to the committee.

#### **Agenda Item #5: Adjournment**

Mr. Pearson made a motion to adjourn, 2nd by Mrs. Beaulieu and Mr. Kelly, approve 6-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony